

### Proceedings of the Convention of the Brethren Church of Pa., Held at Masontown, Sept. 13, 14, 1889.

The convention was called to order at 2:30 p. m., Friday Sept. 13, by J. B. Wampler, Vice Chairman. The opening services were conducted by Stephen Hilderbrand. The election of officers, by ballot, resulted as follows:

Chairman, J. H. Knepper.  
Vice Chairman, Stephen Hilderbrand.

Secretary, A. D. Gnagey.  
Treasurer, J. B. Wampler.

The Chairman appointed committee as follows:

Resolutions, J. B. Rittgers, S. W. Wilt, W. A. Harman.  
Queries, M. M. Sterling, J. B. Wampler, J. W. Smouse.

Miscellaneous business.

On motion the Chair appointed J. W. Smouse, J. B. Rittgers and A. D. Gnagey, a committee to prepare a form of statistical report. The convention also ordered the preparation of a parochial form of report, the work being assigned to the same committee. Adjourned to meet at 7:30 p. m.

FRIDAY EVENING, SEPT. 13, 7:30.

The convention was called to order with the usual devotional services conducted by J. B. Wampler.

Topic. How to Reach the Masses and Retain Them. A. D. Gnagey.

1. Come Down to the Masses, for they will not come to you.

2. Realize your Personal Responsibility and Individual Influence.

3. Realize the Value of the Human Soul.

Music.

Topic. Prayer Meetings. J. B. Rittgers. Bro. Rittgers gave an interesting talk on the importance of the prayer-meeting—its influence in the church. He was followed by Smouse and Wampler.

Music.

Collection. The collection at this time was for the expenses of the S. S. convention. Amount \$4.80.

Song by a little girl. Adjourned.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14, 9 A. M.

The devotional services were conducted by W. A. Harman.

Report of Board of Missions. M. M. Sterling. No report was made, as no work was done through the Board. According to the Rules governing the convention, two officers are elected each year on Board of Missions, the Board consisting of six members. The members elected were, J. B. Wampler, J. B. Rittgers.

Home Missions. J. B. Smouse. Bro. Smouse made a soul-stirring speech on the subject.

1. The Field. 2. The Cause. 3. The Wants. 4. The Resources. He was followed by W. G. Gans, J. B. Wampler.

A resolution was then introduced to appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to outline or formulate a plan of work for the Home Mission Board. Bro. Smouse and the members of Board present were appointed as the said committee.

Topic. What the Pennsylvania S. S. C. E., ought to do. The sisters to whom this subject was assigned being absent, the question was briefly answered by Sister Sterling. The report of the local organization at Masontown was read by the Secretary, sister Stella Sterling.

At this time a number of interesting queries were discussed.

Ministerial degrees was the next item on the program. Very ably discussed by brother Stephen Hilderbrand. He was followed by Knepper, Gans, Wampler and Gnagey. It was the sense of the convention that the Bible teaches no such thing as degrees in the ministry. That bishops are elders, and elders are bishops, and that elders or bishops, with deacons constitute the officers of the church. Adjourned.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1:30.

Devotional services by J. D. Gans.

Report of Board of Supply. This consists of Wm. Gans, Dr. Beechly and J. D. McFaden. Bro Gans reported as follows:

Organized by electing J. D. McFaden President, and W. G. Gans Secretary.

Only one call for a pastor, viz., Johnstown, which was filled by J. B. Rittgers from Ohio.

Two calls by ministers still without charges.

The list of Brethren ministers numbers 39, and 28 organized congregations; 29 houses owned by the Brethren.

The report was accepted. W. G. Gans was re-elected a member of this Board for a term of three years.

The committee on form of Parochial

and Statistical reports, reported as follows:

1. Ministerial Report of—

2. No. of members at the beginning of the year.

3. No. of members added during the year.

a. By baptism.

b. By relation.

c. By letter.

Whole number.

4. No. of removals during the year.

5. No. of members died during the year.

6. Total no. of members at end of year.

7. No. of communions held during year.

8. No. of members who communed at 1st, at 2nd, etc.

9. No. of regular appointments.

10. No. of Mission points.

11. Work done outside the pastor's charge.

12. Whole no. added under pastor's preaching during year.

13. No. of Sabbath Schools under pastor's charge.

14. No. of members added to the church from the Schools.

15. No. of sermons preached during the year.

16. No. of pastoral visits made during the year.

17. Amount paid for building and repairs during year.

18. Amount paid for missions. (Give each congregation and school separate).

19. Pastor's salary.

20. Amount paid pastor.

21. Total amount of expenses, monies paid for all purposes.

22. No. of houses owned in fee simple.

23. No. of union houses.

24. Value of church property.

25. Names of available talent for the ministry.

26. Ministers not in active work.

27. Pastor.

28. Deacons.

29. Clerk.

30. Treasurer.

The above form of report was accepted by the Convention, and the Secretary ordered to have it published in convenient form for distribution to all ministers in the state. W. G. Gans was ordered to arrange from this a statistical or census report and send to all the ministers who are to fill out and return on or before Jan. 1, '90. All ministers in active work will keep a record of their work in such a way as will enable them to fill out the above form of report intelligently, and present at next convention. The convention decided that the church year should begin Oct. 1st and end Sept. 30th.

The committee on outline of work for the Board of Missions presented the following:

WHEREAS, Your committee has been appointed to outline a plan for Mission Work, therefore we present the following to this convention:

That this state convention proceed to elect one state missionary to serve for one year and to be under the direct control of the Mission Board. That this state missionary is to receive one dollar per day and all necessary expenses or \$365 per year and necessary expenses. It is further directed by your committees that the state missionary be authorized to take up public collections and private solicitations for defraying necessary expenses and paying his salary, and that whatever deficit remains, the Secretary is to issue an order, monthly, on the Treasurer for the amount, that the missionary is to make a weekly and monthly report to the Secretary of the Mission Board containing the expenses, sermons preached, amount of money received, number of accessions to the church, etc. The Secretary to keep a correct journal of all reports.

That all surplus money received, by the missionary, be paid monthly to the Treasurer of said Mission Board.

That the Mission Board be empowered to fill any vacancies that may occur during the year.

The committee farther directs that this convention requires the pastor of each congregation to take up quarterly collections, beginning the first of Oct. '89. Collection to be sent to the Treasurer of the Board.

The above is the report, as amended, after it was presented. The convention accepted it as it now stands.

Topic. Woman's Divine Mission. Sister M. M. Sterling made a stirring speech in behalf of Woman's Mission. She was followed by brother S. W. Wilt. He proved—did it logically—by the commission given by Christ, that woman occupies the same position as man—that her sphere spiritually is the same.

Topic. Feasibility of the Itinerary. W. A. Harman. Bro. Harman be-

lieves in the three years itinerary.

Benj. Benshoff was re-elected Trustee of Ashland University. Term three years.

A number of interesting queries were discussed.

An order was drawn on the Treasury for \$4.00 in favor of J. H. Knepper, to pay expenses of printing, etc.

Election of State Missionary. After several ballots, the lot fell on Rev. Stephen Hilderbrand, who, after consideration, and the earnest solicitation of the brethren, agreed to accept the position.

EVENING SESSION, SAT. 14th, 7:30.

Regular Sanctuary services.

Sermon by A. D. Gnagey, on "Preach the Word."

A letter from McFaden and one from Replage were received; both very encouraging.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for the able and impartial manner in which he discharged the duties of his office.

Report of committee on resolutions: We, your committee on resolutions, report the following to this convention for consideration:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God in his goodness to spare our lives through another conference year and permitted us to convene again to transact business relative to the church of the Brethren of Pa., therefore

Resolved, That this convention extend its thanks to the Brethren church of Masontown and others who have so hospitably entertained us during this convention.

Resolved, That we extend our thanks to the friends for their kindness in assisting in furnishing music.

Resolved, That we regard the liquor traffic as one of the most abominable evils of our land and that we work, vote and pray for the time to come when the great evil may be destroyed.

Resolved, That we as Christian workers in the Lord's vineyard do encourage prayer meetings in our respective congregations, inasmuch as we believe them to be essential to the spiritual life and growth of members.

Resolved, That we regard woman's work as essential to the salvation of the world, and woman's divine mission similar to that of man's.

Resolved, That the missionary work should be encouraged by all ministers and members of the Brethren church.

Resolved, That the ministers and delegates be urged to carry home and practically apply the many suggestions and resolutions adopted by this convention.

Respectfully submitted.

J. B. RITTGERS.

W. A. HARMAN.

REV. WILT.

Committee.

Adjourned to meet at the call of the Executive Committee.

A. D. GNAGEY, Sec'y.

Following is a list of the delegates and churches represented:

1. Somerset, Wm. W. Trent.

2. Johnstown, Mrs. D. Crofford, J. B. Rittgers.

3. Meyersdale, Mrs. Dr. McKinley, A. D. Gnagey.

4. Summit Mills, A. D. Gnagey.

5. Cowanshannock, Wm. Byers, J. B. Wampler.

6. Berlin, 7. Stony Creek, J. H. Knepper.

8. Mt. Zion, Peter Loahr.

9. Masontown, M. M. Sterling, W. G. Gans.

10. Latrobe, J. W. Smouse.

11. Middle Run, J. B. Norman.

12. Grove Church, S. W. Wilt.

13. Highland Church, Stephen Hilderbrand, Solomon Tombaugh.

14. Conemaugh, Jacob McCarty.

15. ——— J. D. Gans.

People are taught by their ministers, as a rule, that they shall "go to heaven when they die," but just what that place is like and what they shall do during all eternity, is not told. This, then, is what the minister teaches. Let us now learn what the Spirit teaches in God's last revelation to man. The reward promised to the "called" at Ephesus is: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of Life which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Rev. ii, 7.

To the saints at Smyrna it is said, "I will give thee a crown of life," and "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." ii, 10, 11. And unto the faithful at Pergamos the prom-

ise is, "I will give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give a white stone, and in the stone a new name written," etc. ii, 17. To the Thyatirians that overcome, they shall have "power over the nations, and shall rule them with a rod of iron," ii, 26, 27. To the faithful at Sardis it is said, "They shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot his name out of the book of Life. iii, 4, 5. And to the brethren at Philadelphia it is said, "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God \* \* \* and I will write upon him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and I will write upon him my new name. iii, 11.

And finally, to lukewarm Laodiceans: If any will repent and open the door for the Lord to "come in, will I grant to sit with me in my throne even as I also overcame and am sit down with my Father in his throne." iii, 21. Here we have promised as rewards to the faithful, several different things. We must certainly not understand that the rewards of the saints will be different, simply because they have not lived at the same place, but we see in this the many things that the saints are to receive and enjoy—"eating of the Tree of Life, receiving a crown of life, exemption from the second death, eating of the hidden manna, and a new name." What natural things these are. In perfect accord with the nature of things—all coming to us just as we are competent to receive.

### OUR DEAD.

ABBOTT.—In the North Manchester congregation, Ind., Nora, little daughter of Bro. and Sister Abbott, aged eleven months and eight days.

When the holy angels meet us, As we go to join their band, Shall we know the friends that greet us In that glorious spirit land?

Shall we see the same eyes shining On us as in days of yore?

Shall we feel the dear arms twining Fondly round us as before?

Sermon by Wm. W. Summers.

HOFF.—Died in the Flora congregation, Carroll county, Ind., Aug. 20, infant son of Bro. Samuel Hoff, aged 9 months and 8 days. He only bud-ded in the earth to blossom in the heaven.

WM. W. SUMMERS.

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with LOCAL APPLICATION, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you have to take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucus surface. Hall's Catarrh Cure is no quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucus surface. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing catarrh. Send for testimonials free.

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MRS. MATTIE FERGUSON, of Dryden, N. Y., says: "Vinegar Bitters is the best medicine I ever tried; it saved my life."

T. P. BAILEY, of Humboldt, Iowa, says: "Vinegar Bitters cured me of paralysis ten years ago, and recently it cured me of rheumatism."

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Prayer-meeting every Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

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